



rivers&trails

National
Park
Service



rivers, trails, and conservation assistance program

SAN ANTONIO RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

Project Goal

To “improve” the heavily engineered San Antonio River so that it might:

- Enjoy good water quality.
- Contain its floodwaters.
- Maintain a sustainable water quantity.
- Offer habitat for aquatic plants and animals.
- Offer public access for people of all ages and abilities.
- Provide facilities for recreational pursuits.
- Celebrate the rich cultural traditions of San Antonio.

Background

The San Antonio River has for several centuries been the backbone of San Antonio’s culture and economy. It provides numerous cultural, economic, environmental and spiritual benefits to the greater San Antonio community. Yet growth and development have taken their toll on the river. Improvements to the river environs and its function have been discussed for many years. In 1998 the City of San Antonio, Bexar County and the San Antonio River Authority appointed a twenty-two member citizen-based River Oversight Committee to guide the planning process for re-design and improvement to the river.

National Park Service Role

RTCA provides planning assistance, and technical support as needed, to the San Antonio River Oversight Committee and to the City, County and River Authority. RTCA has primarily focused its assistance on public involvement strategies, including bilingual public outreach materials. RTCA has also assisted the project partners in seeking public and private funding support. In future years, RTCA will support programs and activities that involve community members in hands-on projects along the river, and which build long-term stewardship of the river’s resources.

San Antonio River



continued

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Project Results to Date

- Development of a Planning Document which provides community-based guidance to the professional design and engineering consultants who work on various elements of the river's improvements.
- Development of a bilingual executive summary version of the Planning Document for distribution to the larger San Antonio public.
- Commitments of more than \$20 million in public and private funds toward enhancements and improvements to the river.

Project Partners

- San Antonio River Oversight Committee - Planning committee.
- San Antonio River Authority - River manager.
- City of San Antonio - Owner/manager of facilities (water/wastewater, transportation, recreational) surrounding river corridor.
- Bexar County - Owner/manager of facilities surrounding river corridor.
- San Antonio Missions National Historical Park - Owner/manager of several properties along riparian corridor.

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San Antonio River Improvement Project Area



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